To hold in right and title of the female:
So do the kings of France unto this day;
Howbeit they would hold up this Salique law,
To bar your highness claiming from the female;
And rather choose to hide them in a net,
Than amply to imbare their crooked titles[6]

that Lewis could not wear the crown with a safe conscience.

till *satisfied.*' &c. THEOBALD.

[6] — IMBARE their crooked titles —] Mr. Pope reads:

' Than *openly imbrace* ."

But where is the antithesis betwixt *hide* in the preceding line, and *imbrace* in this ? The two old folios read :

' * Than amply to *imbarre* ."'

We certainly must read, as Mr. Warburton advised me:

' Than amply to *imbare* *"

lay open, display to view. I am surprized Mr. Pope did not start this conjecture, as Mr. Rowe had led the way to it in his edition: who reads :

" Than amply to make *bare* their crooked titles."

THEOBALD.

Mr. Theobald might have found, in the 4to. of 1608, this reading:

' Than amply to *embrace* their crooked *causes;* "

out of which line Mr. Pope formed his reading, erroneous indeed, but not merely capricious. JOHNSON.

The quarto, 1600, reads—imbace.

I have met with no example of the word—imbare. To *unbar* is *to open,* and might have been the word set down by the poet, in opposition to—bar.

So, in the first scene of Timon, the poet says, " I'll *unbolt* to you."*

To *embar* however, seems, from the following passage in the first book of Stanyhurst's translation of Virgil, 1583, to signify to *break or cut off abruptly* :

" Heere Venus *embarring* his tale," &c.

Yet, as to *bar,* in Much Ado About Nothing, is to strengthen—

«----that is stronger made.

" Which was before *barr'd* up with ribs of iron—."

so, *amply* to *unbar,* may mean to *weaken* by an open display of invalidity*

As *imbare,* however, is not unintelligible, and is defended by the following able criticks, I have left it in the text.

STEEVENS.

I have no doubt but *imbare* is the right reading. Though the editor who has adopted it seems to argue against it, it makes the sense more clear than any of the other readings proposed.